

the guardian weekly

November 2012

Level » Lower intermediate
Style » Lesson plan



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: advanced and lower intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly/. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

African fishermen drive off 'pirate' trawlers

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Instructions

Lesson focus: listening and reading

Materials: article, dictionaries

Time: 50 minutes

- Tell students the article is about a serious problem for fishing villages in Sierra Leone. Show pictures two and six of the online gallery at bit.ly/piratefish. As a class, students describe and compare the two boats. Establish that one is a local boat and the other a "pirate" fishing boat. **8 mins**
- Direct students to task 1. Students with dictionaries match the words and definitions. Class feedback. **7 mins**
 - [] to drive off
 - [] a fine
 - [] illegal
 - [] to export
 - [] to seize
 - [] a trawler
 - [] a vessel
 - against the law
 - a general word for a large boat
 - to take something quickly
 - to make somebody go away
 - money you pay when you do something wrong
 - to sell things to another country
 - a large boat which takes fish from the bottom of the sea

Answers: a 4 b 5 c 1 d 6 e 3 f 7 g 2
- Direct students to task 2. Give out the article. Students read and answer the questions. Class feedback. **12 mins**
 - The fishermen drive off illegal ships using _____.
 - police vessels
 - modern technology
 - flat-bottomed boats
 - The EJF bought the fishing villages _____.
 - an export licence
 - a trawler
 - a surveillance vessel
 - The villagers have identified _____ pirate boats.
 - nine
 - 10
 - 252
 - There has been illegal fishing here for _____.
 - many years
 - a few years
 - six months
 - The EJF wants the EU to stop imports of _____.
 - African seafood
 - trawler caught fish
 - illegally caught fish

Answers: 1 b 2 c 3 b 4 a 5 c
 - Read out these questions. Students listen, find information and put up their hands to answer. **8 mins**
 - How many villages are there in the area?
 - How much did the new boat cost?
 - What two things are used to identify the boats?
 - How much were the fines for the trawler owners?
 - When do the trawlers come near the coast?
 - Which countries have the highest levels of illegal fishing?

Answers: a 23. b \$81,000. c Images and GPS position. d \$500,000. e At night. f Liberia etc.
 - Show students the first 1 min 50 secs of the EJJF video at: bit.ly/piratefishvideo. Play it at least twice. Ask them to find out one new piece of information about the problem. **15 mins**

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GPS technology used to track ships EJP

Student tasks

1 Use a dictionary to match the words and definitions.

- a ☐ to drive off b ☐ a fine c ☐ illegal
d ☐ to export e ☐ to seize f ☐ a trawler g ☐ a vessel

- 1 against the law
- 2 a general word for a large boat
- 3 to take something quickly
- 4 to make somebody go away
- 5 money you pay when you do something wrong
- 6 to sell things to another country
- 7 a large boat which takes fish from the bottom of the sea

2 Read the article and answer these questions.

1 The fishermen drive off illegal ships using

- a police vessels b modern technology
c flat-bottomed boats

2 The EJP bought the fishing villages

- a an export licence b a trawler c a surveillance vessel

3 The villagers have identified pirate boats.

- a nine b 10 c 252

4 There has been illegal fishing here for

- a many years b a few years c six months

5 The EJP wants the EU to stop imports of

- a African seafood b trawler caught fish

c illegally caught fish.

Article: African fishermen drive off 'pirate' trawlers

- 1 A group of 23 west African fishing villages has driven off illegal, "pirate" fishing boats by filming and reporting them when they are found in their waters.
- 2 Eighteen months ago, the Environment Justice Foundation (EJP) raised \$81,000 to buy a small surveillance boat for villages in the Sherbro river area of Sierra Leone. Since then local fishermen have filmed and identified 10 international trawlers working in their waters and they have made 252 reports of illegal fishing.
- 3 Images of the pirate ships and their GPS positions are used to identify the vessels and the evidence is given to European Union (EU) and African governments. Nine of the 10 ships identified had licences to export their fish to Europe.
- 4 A recent EJP report says that the new plan has been very successful. More than \$500,000 in fines has been collected from the vessel owners, \$6m worth of fish has been seized and none of the vessels has been reported in Sierra Leone's exclusion zone for six months.
- 5 Illegal fishing has been a problem on the west African coast for 20 years. Large international trawlers catch hundreds of tonnes of fish a day, at the expense of local fishermen who use small flat-bottomed boats. The foreign trawlers that are meant to stay outside the 19km limit come in much closer at night because most west African countries don't have the money to police their waters.
- 6 According to the report, countries such as Liberia, Senegal, Mauritania and Ghana have the highest levels of illegal fishing in the world.
- 7 EJP is asking the EU to stop illegally caught fish from entering the European seafood market.
- 8 "The EU is the world's largest importer of fish," said Andy Hickman of EJP. "It has a responsibility to combat illegal fishing around the world, particularly in countries where fish is a vital source of food security, employment and income."

**Original article by John Vidal,
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